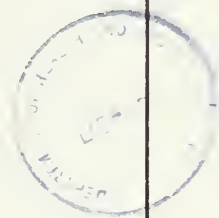


1/

Borough of
otherwise



Dunheved
Launceston



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1970

Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED OTHERWISE LAUNCESTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

for the year 1970

Health Area Office,
Launceston,
Cornwall.

WILLIAM PATERSON M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



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BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1970.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -
Councillor F Jordan
Councillor J.D.Rashley (Chairman)
Alderman C.J.Moore (Vice-chairman)
Alderman Mrs J.C.Hicks
Councillor S.G.Adams
Councillor D.C.Tolchard, M.B.E.
Councillor R.V.Martin
Councillor E.J.R.Martin

- - - - -

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority
Medical Officer of Health :

W.PATERSON M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health : Launceston Rural District Council
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council
Stratton Rural District Council
Camelford Rural District Council

Health Area Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A. P.H.I.

Authorised Meat Inspectors :

J.S.HYNDFORD

J. ELLISON

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,182
Population	4,700
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1,761
Rateable Value 1970	£ 204,523
Product of 1d rate	856.6456

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	62	27	35	13.8.
Illegitimate	3	2	1	-

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	1	-	1	15.1 (Rate per 1,000 total births)
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<u>DEATHS</u> (all causes)	96	39	57	20.4
----------------------------	----	----	----	------

Puerperal and post-abortive
sepsis Nil
Other Puerperal causes Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

1	1	-	15.3
---	---	---	------

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5	3	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	N I L		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	N I L		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	N I L		

Health Area Office,
Launceston

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1970.

The number of deaths during the year - 96 - was twelve fewer than in the previous year. The number of births increased from 56 to 65. Although the unfavourable balance of deaths over births was maintained, the Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population was unchanged at 4,700, a satisfactory figure in the circumstances. Heart disease, cerebro-vascular disease and cancer, in that order, were the most common causes of death. One infant death and one stillbirth were recorded.

Once again, the incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low.

"The environment" and "pollution", either alone or in association, are catch-words of the present time in such frequent and facile use as to be in danger of acquiring a significance quite different from their original meaning and derivation. They are used, indeed, as if they were newly discovered or only recently coined. It may be timely, therefore, to observe that the words, and what they describe, were well known, 123 years ago, to Edwin Chadwick and his colleagues when they laid down the foundations of public health law and practice in this country. They are still the concern of the present law and practice, which endeavour to improve the one and prevent the other, an effort which, in the Borough as elsewhere, calls for unremitting attention.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G.E.Gifford, the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our work together and in the preparation of this report. The Council's other Departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1970 to be 4,700, the same as the previous year. The "natural increase" in the population is the excess of births over deaths, In 1970 there were 31 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 96 compared with 108 in 1969. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population, was 20.4 compared with 23 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1966	80	44	36	17.5
1967	77	32	45	16.7
1968	131	72	59	28.1
1969	108	44	64	23.0
1970	96	39	57	20.4

In order to compare the mortality in the Borough with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the Borough an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.49 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 10.0 which may be compared with that of 11.7 (provisional) for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 65 compared with 56 in 1969. The rate per thousand of the population was 13.8. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.09) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 15.0 for this Borough compares with 16.0. (provisional) for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - There was one stillbirth during 1970.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS There were three illegitimate births assigned to the Borough during the year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - There was one infant death in 1970.

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
M		Want of attention at birth

NOTE

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 65 headings based on the
Abbreviated List of the International Statistical
Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of
Death, 1967

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm - intestine	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	1	2	3
Anaemias	1	-	1
Hypertensive disease	-	6	6
Ischaemic heart disease	11	18	29
Other forms of heart disease	2	7	9
Cerebrovascular disease	9	13	22
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	2	2
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	1	3
Asthma	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	1	2
Congenital anomalies	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases - Genito Urinary System	-	1	1
	<u>39</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>96</u>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

General Medical Services

General Medical Services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

County Council Services

- I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
 - (b) Health Visiting. Health Visitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine the work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as School nurses.
 - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
 - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
 - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and for poliomyelitis vaccination are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.

Vaccination against measles is now provided for susceptible children up to the age of 15 years, and a limited scheme of vaccination against German Measles, for older girls of secondary school age, has been introduced.
 - (f) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utility sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.

- (g) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, and health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils
Cleanliness surveys of pupils
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education.
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-
Dental Clinic by appointment.
Child Guidance Clinic, by arrangement.

III Social Services Department.

The Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970, which resulted from the recommendations of the committee on Local Authority and Allied Personal Services (the Seebohm Report), presented to Parliament in 1968, came into full operation on 1st April, 1971. This Act required the County Council to set up a Social Services Committee and appoint a Director of Social Services, who is now established at Old County Hall, Truro.

The new Department is responsible for the following :-

All duties formerly carried out by the Children's Department
All duties formerly carried out by the Mental Health and Welfare Section of the Health and Welfare Department.
Family casework with the physically and mentally disabled.
Day centres, clubs, adult training centres, workshops and residential accommodation for the above.
The day care of children under the age of five years, playgroups, etc. day nurseries, and child minding.
The care of unsupported mothers, including residential care.
Home Help Service.

The new Department retains a link with the Health Department in that the County Medical Officer remains Medical Adviser to the County Council, including the Social Services Committee, and the Deputy County Medical Officer deals with day-to-day medical matters affecting the Social Services Department.

The Social Workers for the Borough work from the Health Area Office, Launceston. The Social Worker for Child Care works from Hendra, Dunheved Road, Launceston.

Hospital Services

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy Chest Hospital and Tehidy Hospital. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held twice monthly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held in Launceston each week.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The absence of any water shortage during the year obviated the necessity for restriction on the use of hoses etc. A main extension in 4" P.V.C. to the Lanstephan area was carried out during the year. This area, which is in the northern part of the Borough, is being developed as a new council housing project.

The volume of water supplied from Bastreet averaged 200,000 gallons per day. Only during the early part of the year was any part of the Borough's water supply taken from the Bray Down installation. Latterly the supply has been from Bastreet whence it is conveyed by a 12" main reducing to 9" in diameter before reaching Launceston.

The swimming bath at Coronation Park is now fed direct from the main and the use of the small underground reservoir in the park has been discontinued.

Out of a total of 1761 dwellings with a population of 4,700 persons, 1,709 dwellings and 4,680 persons are supplied with water from public water mains.

No stand pipes are used in the Borough.

SAMPLING

The following is a summary of reports of water samples taken in the area :-

Public Supplies

I By East Cornwall Water Board

(a) Untreated Water

Chemical samples : No reports received.

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
28	16	15

(b) Treated Water

Chemical Samples : One report was received on a sample from the Launceston Sub-Depot, taken on the 18th March when water from Bray Down was still being received.

The report on this sample stated it to be practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from minute traces. The water has, however, a faintly acid reaction with a very low carbonate alkalinity on account of which it will show corrosive action on metals. It is very soft in character with a fairly low content of mineral and saline constituents. It is of a high standard of organic quality. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water from the aspect of chemical analysis. Correction of its faintly acid reaction with low carbonate alkalinity is, however, considered very desirable to minimise action on metals.

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type I (faecal)</u>
36	1	1

II By Health Department, Launceston Borough Council.
(from Distribution System - treated water)

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type I (faecal)</u>
21	3	2

No type I coliform bacilli were reported on resampling.

It is the routine practice of your Health Department to send a copy of each bacteriological report on these samples to the Chief Engineer, East Cornwall Water Board, for his information.

Private Supplies

Some concern was felt during the year regarding reports that children were drinking from the tap in the forecourt of some newly erected garages. The tap had been provided obviously for the washing of cars and the water therefrom was untreated and subject to contamination. Steps were taken under Section 140 of the Public Health Act, 1936 to ensure that the supply was suitably labelled concerning its unfitness for drinking.

Advice was given on two occasions in respect of complaints alleging blue discolouration of drinking water. It is unlikely that further complaints of this nature will be received now that the less acid type of water is being supplied from Bastreet.

Insufficient Supplies

No instances of insufficient supplies were met with during the year.

SWIMMING BATH

The swimming bath at the Coronation Park is of the open air type. It has a capacity of approximately 100,000 gallons of water which is filtered by the circulating method and chlorinated by an automatic dosing plant.

Out of twenty-three samples of water taken for bacteriological analysis, coliform organisms were absent in all but one sample and this was not Type I (faecal).

CHILDREN'S PADDLING POOL

Seventeen samples of water were taken from the paddling pool which is not treated by the same chlorination and filtering plant as the swimming bath. Coliform bacilli Type 1 were found on five occasions and steps were immediately taken to chlorinate or change the water.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, whereby surface water is excluded from the foul sewers. One property only remains which still uses conservancy methods and this is likely to be demolished in the very near future.

There are two sewage disposal works, a small one at Scarne built by Army Authorities during the war and modernised in 1959, and a much larger one at St. Leonards which has functioned in its new form since April, 1963, following complete reconstruction and enlargement.

Plans are well advanced for the linking of the Scarne area, with its industrial development, to the sewerage system discharging to St. Leonards. Works were commenced during the year for the provision of larger capacity sewers to cope with the industrial population and with modifications at St. Leonards to deal with this additional load.

DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified, and the circumstances of the case require it.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. Three private dwellings were dealt with for flea infestation, the worst being an infestation by the *Ctenocephalides Canis* or the dog flea. Considerable time has been spent in dealing with infestations, particularly that of the cockroach (*Blatta Orientalis*) which is extremely persistent in one location.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Bi-weekly collections are made of house refuse, and weekly collection made of refuse and paper from trade premises. A compression type refuse loader is used. The increased volume of both domestic and trade refuse is presenting a problem from the aspects of collection and of final disposal.

Additional land has been acquired which has opened up tipping facilities likely to last for a considerable period.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are provided with washing facilities.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were 139 premises registered under this Act at the 31st December, 1970, 8 having been newly registered during the year. 66 inspections were carried out, 37 of these being detailed general inspections.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

1. Number of properties in district

2. (a) Total number of properties
(including nearby premises)
inspected following
notification

(b) Number infested by (i) Rats

(ii) Mice

3. (a) Total number of properties
inspected for rats and/or
mice for reasons other than
notification

(b) Number infested by (i) Rats

(ii) Mice

<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	
<u>NON- AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>
2400	31
48	4
20	1
5	1
280	18
14	1
3	-

SEWERS

4. Number of sewers infested by rats
during the year NIL

POISONS USED :-

Warfarin 18 lbs.
Arsenic $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

- 11 -
HOUSING

1. Estimated population	4700
2. (a) Total number of permanent houses at 31st December, 1970	...	...	...	...	1761
(b) Total number of permanent houses owned by Local Authority at 31st December, 1970...	...	...	...	...	360
3. (a) New houses erected					
(i) by Local Authority	...	....	...	...	28
(ii) by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	21
(b) Number of applicants on housing list at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	133
4. Number of houses specially provided for, and occupied by, people of pensionable age during 1970					
(a) Receiving contribution from County Council for Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	-
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	-
5. Houses demolished -					
(a) in clearance areas -					
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	-
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	...	...	...	...	-
(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	-
(b) not in clearance areas -					
(i) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (i) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
(ii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	-
(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts...	...	...	...	...	-
(iv) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	-

6. Unfit houses closed -

(a) Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957	1
(b) Under section 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	Nil

7. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied -

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(a) after informal action by Local Authority	16	-
(b) after formal notice under -		
(i) Public Health Acts	8	-
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Acts, 1957	-	-
(c) under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 . .	-	-

8. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

(a) Retained for temporary accommodation -	
(i) under Section 48	Nil
(ii) under Section 17 (2)	Nil
(iii) under Section 46	Nil
(b) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	Nil

9. Purchase of houses by agreement -

Houses in clearance area other than those included in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders, purchased during the year.

Nil

10. Housing Acts 1949 - 1969

Improvement Grants -

(a) Discretionary -

Number of applications received - dwellings	... . . . .	8
Number of applications approved - dwellings	... . . . .	7
Total approved expenditure	... . . . .	£11,500
Total amount of grants made	... . . . .	£400

(b) Standard -

Number of applications received - dwellings	... . . . .	16
Number of applications approved - dwellings	. . . . .	16
Total approved expenditure	. . . . .	£2,812 (Max. grant permitted)
Total amount of grants made	. . . . .	£1,956 (9 dwellings)

Note - 9 grants approved to 31st December, 1970 were unpaid at that date. Number of applications for standard grants to 31st December, 1970 total 126.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960</u>		
		<u>Section 16</u> <u>complied with</u>	<u>Section 19</u> <u>Obligatory</u>	<u>Section 19</u> <u>Complied with</u>
Butchers	8	8	8	8
Small Goods Factories	3	3	3	3
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Bakers' shops	2	2	2	2
Cafes and Hotels	11	11	11	11
Dairies	8	8	8	8
Fish and Chip Shops	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	4	4	4	4
Grocers	15	15	15	15
Poulterers	1	1	1	1
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
School Meals Kitchens	3	3	3	3
Hospital Kitchens	2	2	2	2
Fresh Fish Shops	1	1	1	1

Note : Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Section 16 : Requirement to provide personal washing facilities

Section 19: Requirement to provide facilities for the washing
of food and equipment

No exemptions from the requirement to provide the above facilities
have been issued by the Council.

(ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the
Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under local Acts, and the number of Dairies
registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1959.

Premises registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	28
Premises registered for the sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	11
Premises registered as Dairies	8

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	7
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	30
Ice Cream Premises	52
Dairies	51

Contamination of Foodstuff

Complaints are received from time to time concerning the unsatisfactory condition of the bottles in which milk is distributed in the area. Action was taken in two specific cases to effect examination by and obtain the opinion of the Public Analyst. The first complaint, which occurred in February, concerned a bottle of milk which was brought to the Public Health Department in its unopened state showing a large area of discolouration similar to a film of blood and highly distasteful. On examination by the Public Analyst, it was reported that the interior of the bottle was contaminated with a number of patches of red coloured mould growth. His opinion was that this was due to inadequate cleansing. The attention of the distributors was drawn to the matter and an undertaking given by them to intensify what they regarded to be an already highly efficient cleansing service.

In July, a further complaint concerning a bottle of milk was received, the inner surface of the bottle being covered with what appeared to be a dirty film. It also appeared that this film contained portions of dead insects. The Analyst's report was as follows - "I acknowledge receipt of a bottle of milk from you on the 29th July last for examination with reference to the nature of the film on the inside surface of the bottle. I have examined the milk bottle and I have to report that not less than one sixth of the inside surface of the bottle was covered with a film of dried milk, a small number of vegetable fibres were present, but no insect fragments were discovered. No mould growth was detected."

In this case, a statement was made by the distributors to the effect that the installation of electric scanners was at that moment being actively considered in order to prevent improperly cleansed bottles finding their way to the public. They were advised of the serious consequence of any such further cases.

In January, a request was received from a neighbouring authority for an investigation into the manner in which mutton cloth had found its way into sausages locally manufactured. A searching enquiry was carried out and the cause was found to be the failure of an employee to carry out the firm's specific instructions. Steps were taken to ensure that this happening should not recur.

In June, it was necessary to trace an itinerant vendor of fish, concerning whom complaints as to the freshness of his fish were made. Finally contact was made and the vendor concerned advised of his responsibilities under the Food and Drugs Act.

Two cases of contamination found in imported foodstuffs came to light, one in August and another in September. They were as follows :-

On the 18th August, a complaint was received from a member of the public that on opening a 7 oz. tin of pork luncheon meat manufactured in Holland, a large beetle, resembling a black beetle, was seen embedded in the surface of the meat. Local enquiries and enquiries from the Shipping Agents enabled the manufacturers to be identified. The contamination was reported by the Public Analyst to be a Carabid Beetle of the species *Herpalus*. He

further reported having examined the beetle for presence of the enzyme phosphatase with a negative result, indicating that the beetle had been subjected to an elevated temperature. This finding was consistent with the assumption that the beetle had been processed in the can with the meat. A full report on this matter, together with the necessary evidence, was forwarded to the Headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Chessington, Surrey, which department takes action direct with the Dutch authority at Embassy level.

In December, a report was received to the effect that pieces of glass approximately half an inch to three-quarters of an inch in size had been found by members of the public whilst eating French cheese. This cheese had been imported in large quantities and had already been distributed over a wide area of Cornwall. In view of the danger to the public, the local distributors re-visited a very large number of the premises to which the affected cheese had been delivered and recovered the bulk of the distributed consignment. Enquiries through the importers, who were most helpful in the matter, elicited the name and address of the firm in France who had manufactured this article. An explanation was received following enquiry by the importers to the effect that "the glass thermometer which is used to control temperature, was broken in a vat of 5,000 litres. The twenty-six cartons (approximately 40 lbs.) produced from this vat were put to one side, although most of the pieces of the thermometer had been found. The cheese themselves were sold to a small processing factory in France, who were advised of the risks involved and who were presumably equipped to detect any extraneous matter in the raw material during the manufacturing process. The factory cannot understand how two cartons escaped their control, except if there had been an error at the Store where the cheese was stocked. The Societe Lescur have been in touch with the producers, who confirm having been invoiced with the 26 affected cartons and the probable explanation would appear to be that just two cartons managed to find their way on to the wrong pile." No further incidents of glass contamination were reported. Full details of the matter were reported to the Department of Health and Social Security who again deal direct with the French authorities at Embassy level.

(iv) Educational Activities

Posters, leaflets and codes of practice, where applicable, are issued to food producing establishments and food shops and advice is given whenever possible. Lectures are also given at local schools.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat, according to the type of meat, is consigned to processing firms at Exeter or Ascot where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertilisers and other products. Condemned canned food is dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. With the introduction of the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969, all butchers' meat or imported meat unfit for human consumption must be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution, the exception being its dispatch to specially approved outlets, transportation being in locked containers or vehicles.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments Nil

(vii) The Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

The increase of imported food reaching Launceston in sealed containers continued until the month of August. This chiefly concerned bacon, but no further consignments were notified after that date.

(viii) Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1959.

No ice-cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Forty-four samples of ice-cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Eight samples were classified as Provisional Grade 1, twelve as Provisional Grade 2, fifteen as Provisional Grade 3 and nine as Provisional Grade 4. It is desirable that 80% of the samples should be classified in Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3 and none should fall into Grade 4. In spite of the greatest care being exercised in connection with the sampling technique and the transport problems, results failed to fall within the required limits. Investigations are still being carried out.

(ix) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-1960.

Frequent inspections of all food premises in the Borough were carried out during the year.

(x) Milk and Cream

There are six registered dairies in the Borough. Eight premises are licensed to retail milk. There are no producer-retailers.

The following samples of milk were taken by the Department during the year :--

Pasteurised Milk

Forty-two samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken and all passed the Methylene Blue test. All samples also passed the Phosphatase test.

Notification was received from the County Public Health Department that six samples of Pasteurised Milk and one sample of Ultra Heat Treated Milk were taken and reported upon as conforming to the required standard.

Brucella Abortus

No samples were taken for the identification of this organism since all milk retailed in the Borough is Pasteurised.

(xi) Unsound Food

Twenty-three visits were made in order to condemn unsound foodstuffs.

(xii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

100% meat inspection was carried out within the Borough during the year. There was a decrease of 4,289 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1970 indicating a fall of 6.01% compared with the 1969 figure and representing a total kill of 67,067 animals made up as follows :-

Bovines	5710 increased by 284 or 7%
Calves	1159 decreased by 484 or 29%
Sheep	42715 decreased by 657 or 1.6%
Pigs	17483 decreased by 3432 or 16.4%

Cysticercus Bovis

There were two cases of infestation by *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during 1970, as against three in 1969. The infestation was found in a steer and a cow. The parasite, developmental stage of the human tapeworm, *taenia saginata*, was found in the cheek muscle of the animals.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised. In the case of a localised infestation, only the part affected is condemned, the remainder of the carcass being treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tuberculosis

No case of Bovine Tuberculosis occurred during the year. The incidence of Tuberculosis in pigs was 1.4% slightly more favourable than the 1.9% recorded in 1969.

Slaughtering Licences

Thirty-two licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

Diseases of Animals Act

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

(xiii) Poultry Inspection

(i) Number of poultry processing premises within the district	1
(ii) Number of visits to these premises	86
(iii) Total number of birds processed during the year.	383,408
(iv) Types of birds processed -	
Turkeys	2,265
Fowls	309,186
Broilers	33,906
Capons	38,051

- (v) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit
for human consumption Average 2 - 4%
- (vi) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit
for human consumption 14,573 lbs.
- (vii) Comments on poultry processing and inspection :-

Frequent inspections to this establishment are now carried out in view of the increased throughput. Assistance in this duty is given by the Authorised Meat Inspector. Under the Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 (Commencement) Order 1969, this Act, requiring registration of premises where turkeys or domestic fowls are stunned prior to slaughter, came into force. This requires supervision from the cruelty aspect of such establishments. Periodic visits by a Veterinary Officer are also required and close liaison is maintained with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.70.

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>	<u>Building Operations</u> <u>Electrical Stations</u> <u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Aluminium Fabrication	1	-	
Agricultural Implement Repairs	3	-	
Bakehouses	1	-	
Carpet Manufacture	1	-	
Cabinet Making	1	-	
Cellulose Spraying	1	-	
Children's Clothing	1	-	
Corrugated Cases	1	-	
Dental Workshop	1	-	
Dresses and Millinery	2	-	
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1	
Horticultural Machinery Repairs	1	-	
Joinery	5	1	
Laundry	2	-	
Letter Press Printing	2	-	
Monumental Mason	1	-	
Motor Body Painting	1	-	
Motor Body Builders	1	-	
Motor Vehicles Repairs	13	-	
Meat Preparation, Sausages	1	-	
Poultry Slaughterhouses	1	-	
Rope Splicing	-	1	
Sawnills	1	-	
Self Service Petrol Pump Controls	1	-	
Seed Cleaning	1	-	
Sausage Manufacturers	1	-	
Television Repairs	2	-	
Tyre Repairs and Fitting	1	-	
Upholstery	1	-	
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-	
Wool Grading	1	-	
Electrical Stations			1
Building Operations			6
Slaughterhouses			1
	52	3	8

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961, are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/70 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Cholera, plague, relapsing fever, typhus, smallpox, acute encephalitis, acute meningitis, acute poliomyelitis, anthrax, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, diphtheria, infective jaundice, leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, measles, ophthalmia neonatorum, paratyphoid fever, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, yellow fever and food poisoning.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table II.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 239 vaccinations and 25 re-vaccinations were carried out in the whole of the County Council's Health Area No. 6.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

213 children in the Health Area received a complete course of immunisation during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in all cases. 326 children received reinforcing injections, the diphtheria-tetanus vaccine being used in these cases.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 234 persons in the Health Area received a complete course of oral vaccination, and a further 321 a reinforcing dose.

Measles. Five cases of this disease were notified during the year. Vaccination against this disease continued, 373 children between the ages of four and eleven years being vaccinated in the whole of the Health Area during the year.

Whooping Cough. Four cases of this infection were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Salmonella enteritidis, one of the salmonella group of organisms, which includes some of the food poisoning germs, was identified in a specimen from a patient convalescing in the Borough after an acute gastro-intestinal infection, treated in hospital elsewhere. As is usual in this type of infection, the germs continued to be reported in specimens submitted for some weeks after recovery.

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.69	6	2	4	4
No. of cases notified				
during the year	-	-	-	1
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	-	-
Cases Removed	-	-	-	-
<hr/>				
Total on Register	6	2	4	5
31.12.70	<hr/>		<hr/>	

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and, thus acting as a most valuable and essential "Liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible Secondary School children was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1970, no deaths from lung cancer were reported. This leaves the total of deaths from this cause since 1949 at twenty-three male and seven female deaths, while during the same period there have been 116 male and 125 female deaths from all forms of cancer.

It should not be assumed that an absence of deaths from lung cancer in a single year necessarily indicates a lessening in the incidence of the disease. Nor, unfortunately, does it indicate any significant increase in the awareness of the public of the risks of smoking, in particular of cigarette smoking.

An anti-smoking course, held under the auspices of the County Health Department at Launceston College on three successive evenings in May, was attended by no more than twenty people. This was numerically disappointing, although those present showed a keen interest, and took a useful part in all aspects of the course.

There cannot be any person who is able to see, hear or read who can fail to be aware of the proved association between smoking and cancer of the lung, and other diseases, yet still any decline in cigarette smoking is trifling. This cannot be due merely to apathy: it must require initially a deliberate intention to ignore the warnings, and bury the unpleasant truth under a mound of comforting rationalisations, enabling the individual to continue to indulge in his addiction. This is a human failing of the type of which all are liable to be guilty, but in this connection surely a particular danger.

Cancer of the Cervix. The County Council's Cervical Cytology Clinic at Launceston continued to operate during the year.

Women between the ages of 30 and 55 years are accepted for this form of examination. The clinic at Launceston serves the whole of the Health Area, and beyond. During the year, 460 specimens were submitted to the laboratory. No cases of the pre-cancerous stage of the disease, nor of established cancer of the cervix, were discovered, but a number of minor conditions were identified. As a copy of the laboratory report is sent to the patient's general practitioner, he is made aware of these findings, and can arrange treatment, if required.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1970.

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other.</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION (Estimated)</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1966	4570	58	12.69	-	-	80	17.50
1967	4600	61	13.30	-	-	77	16.70
1968	4670	66	14.1	-	-	131	28.1
1969	4700	56	11.9	2	36.0	108	23.0
1970	4700	65	13.8	1	15.3	96	20.4

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apl.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	4
	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	3	-	1	9

TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4199	1511	1159	42715	17483	-
Number inspected	4199	1511	1159	42715	17483	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	12	49	39	148	51	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1579	1169	17	3996	1225	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	38.69%	64.91%	4.832%	9.7%	7.31%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	250	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.4%	-
<u>Cysticercosis only</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfit meat rejected	45 tons 0 cwts. 1 Qtr. 20 lbs.					

TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>COMPLIED WITH</u>
Defective Drainage	2	2
General Defects	4	4
Insanitary Conditions	3	3
Obstructed Drainage	7	7
Food Hygiene Regulations	13	13
Civic Amenities Act	2	2
Noise Abatement Act	2	2
Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles Regulations	1	1
Total Number of Complaints Received		99
Total number of Visits paid		1790

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of
the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	52	68	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises)	8	26	1	-
Total	63	99	3	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	-	2	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

N I L

